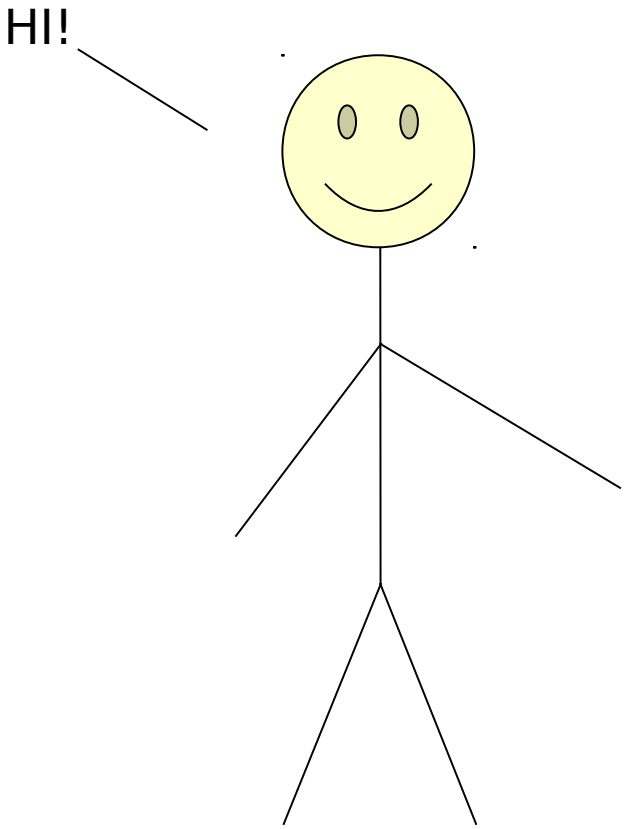
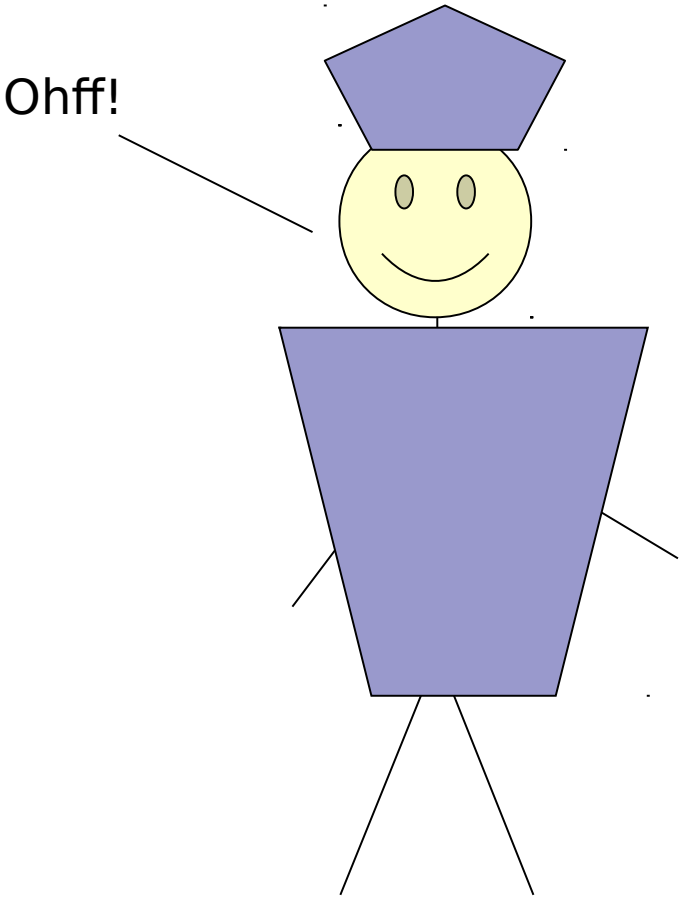
How to Win the War in Al Anbar by CPT Trav

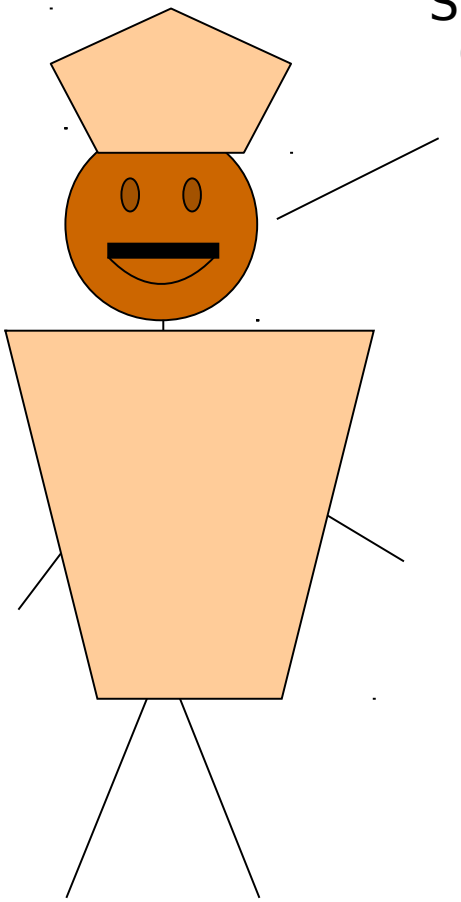


This is an American Soldier. We'll call him Joe. Joe wants to win in Al Anbar
But sometimes it seems like other people don't share that idea.

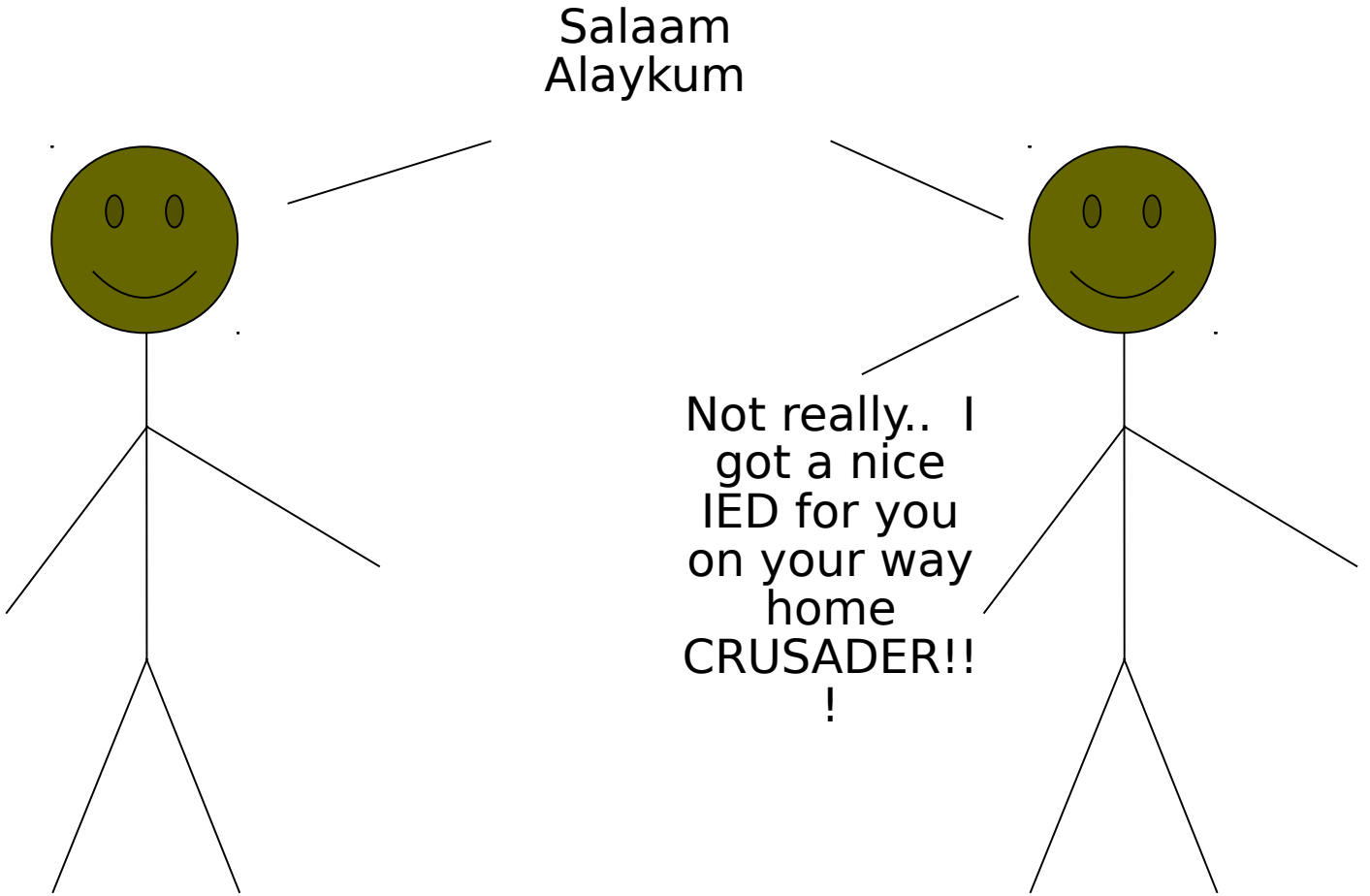
How can Joe win in Al Anbar? By fighting the insurgents?



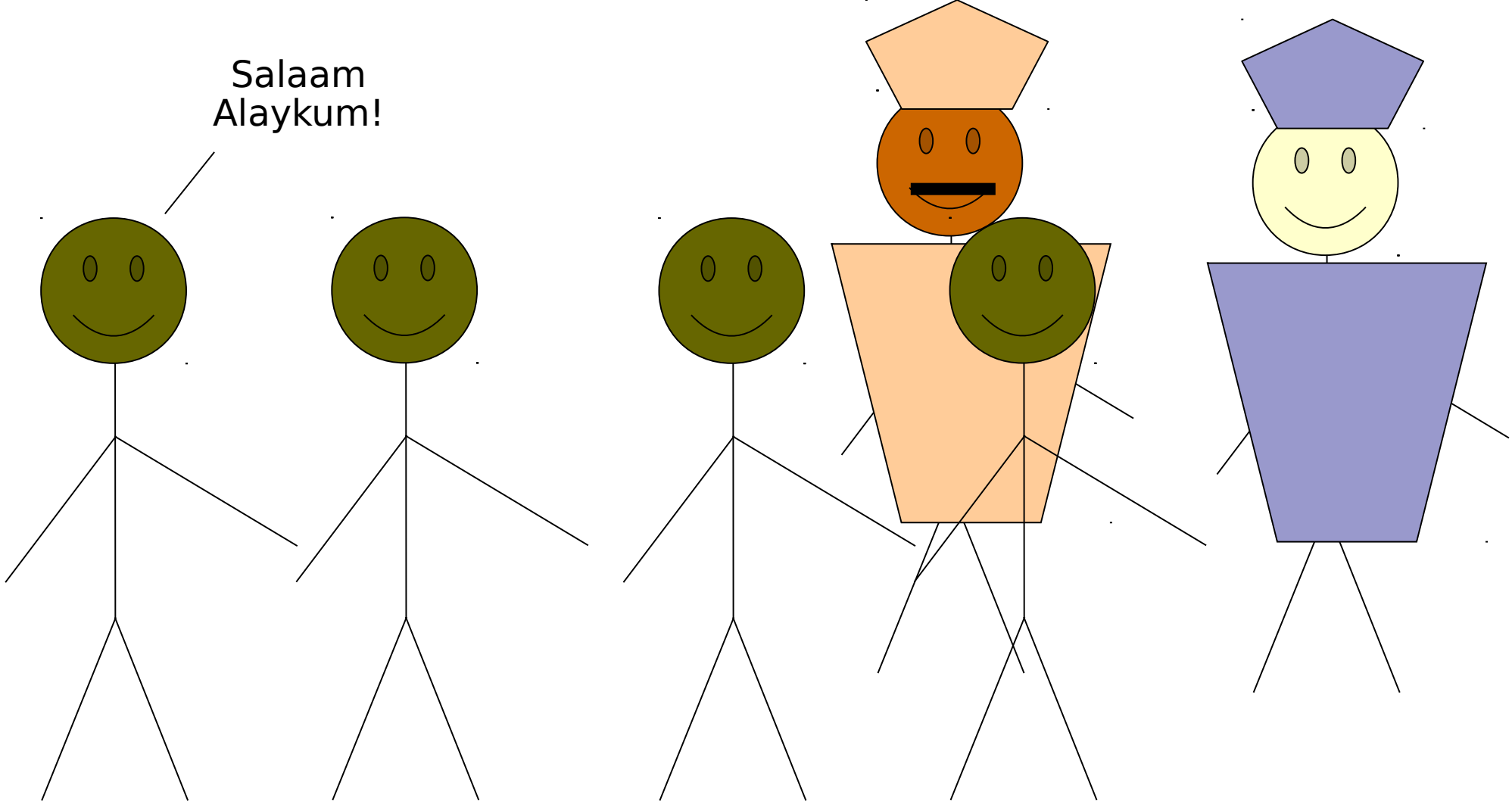
This is Joe with all his gear on. It weighs 80 pounds. He can't fight insurgents very well in all this gear. Survive attacks? Yes. Fight well? No.



This is Mohammed. He’s in the Iraqi Army. He is from Baghdad, and he has a lot of the same problems that Joe has in Anbar.. Except ALL the people here hate him!

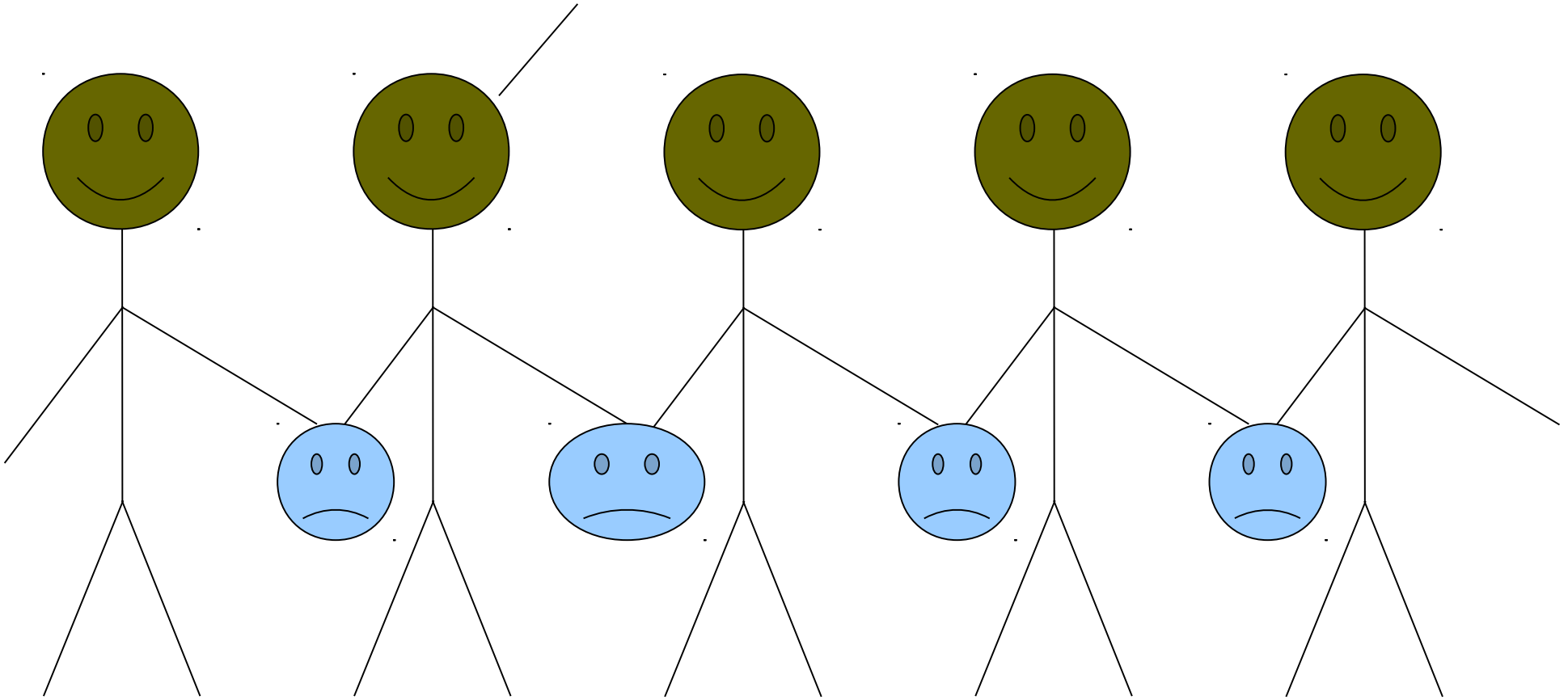


On the right is an insurgent. He is bad. On the left is an Iraqi Man, who is not an insurgent, but is scared of them. He doesn't like Joe, but he doesn't want to hurt him, and he does want to protect his family, but he's afraid of the insurgents. What to do??

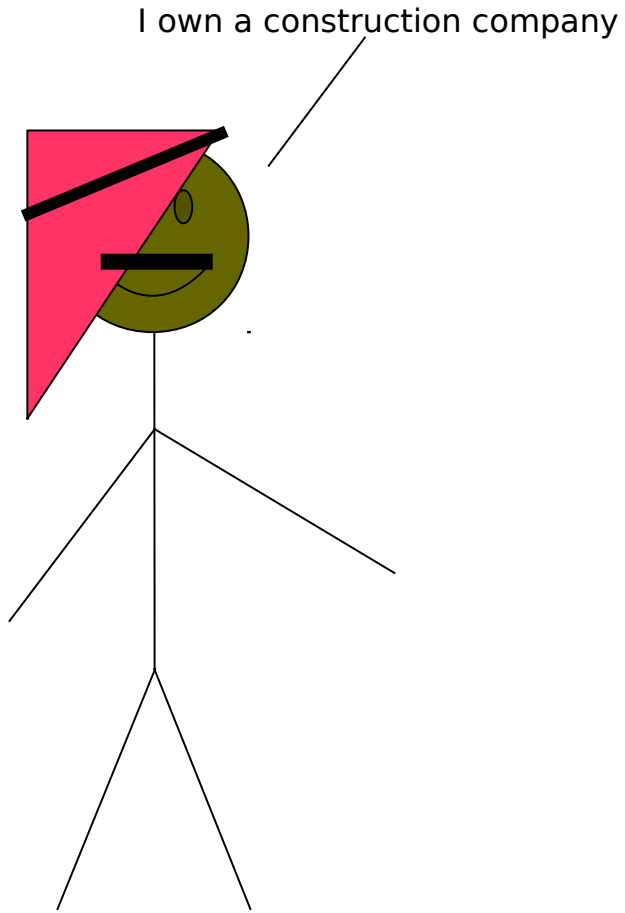


There's Joe and Mohammed! They don't know if these are good Iraqis or bad Iraqis.. What to do?

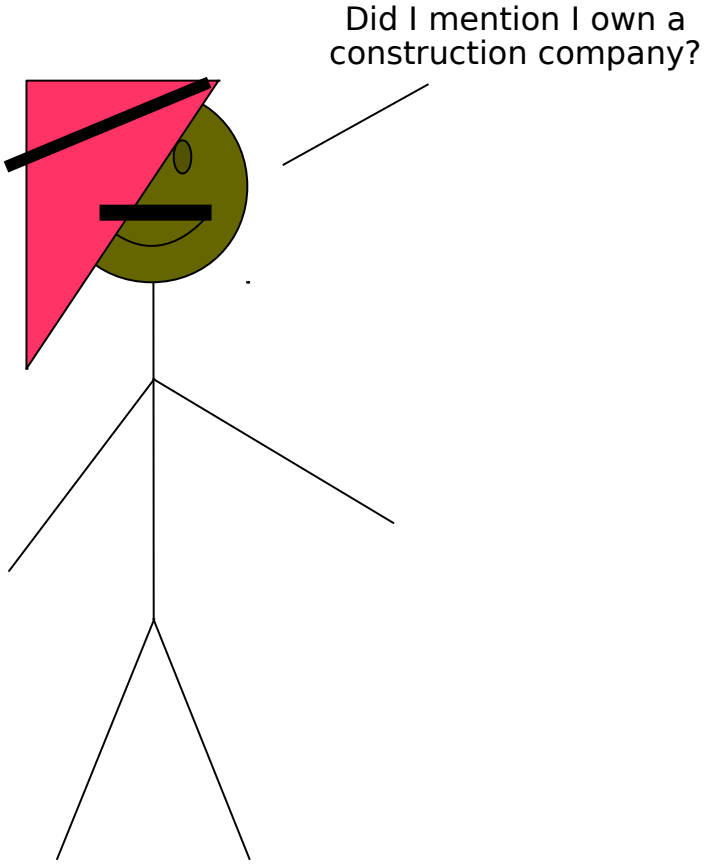
Allah Akbar

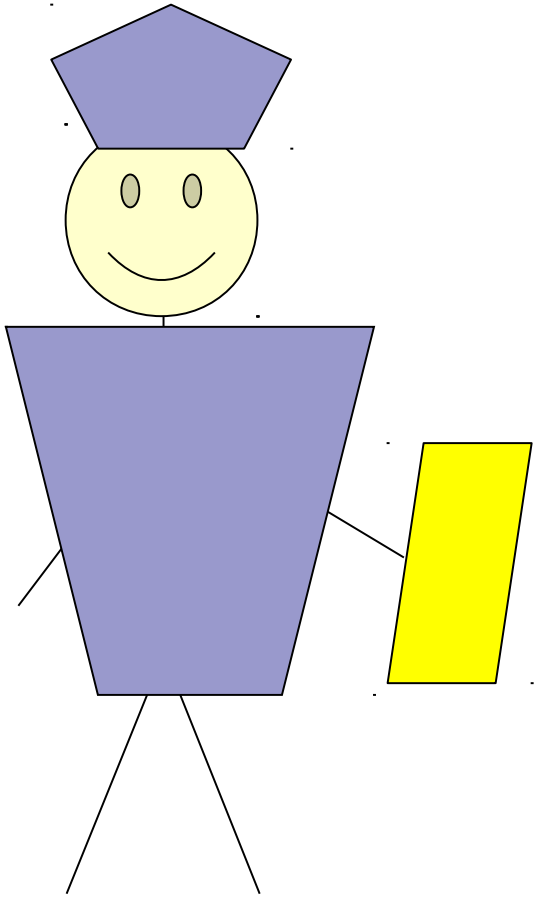


This is a group of insurgents. They like chaos and power. They get it by sawing heads off of and intimidating good Iraqis

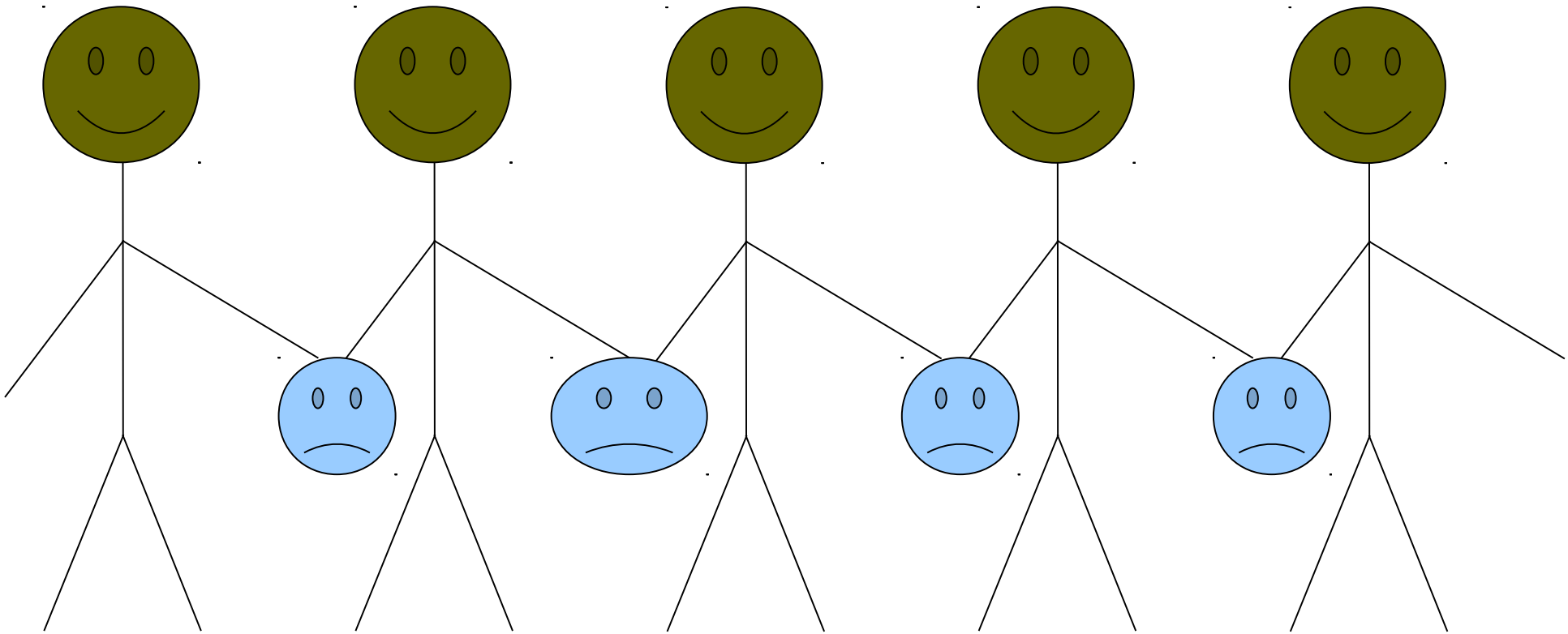


This is a Sheik. They've been leading the people of this area for approximately 14,000 years. In spite of many, many conquering Armies trying to remove him, this man and his family have been involved in the politics here since recorded time began.

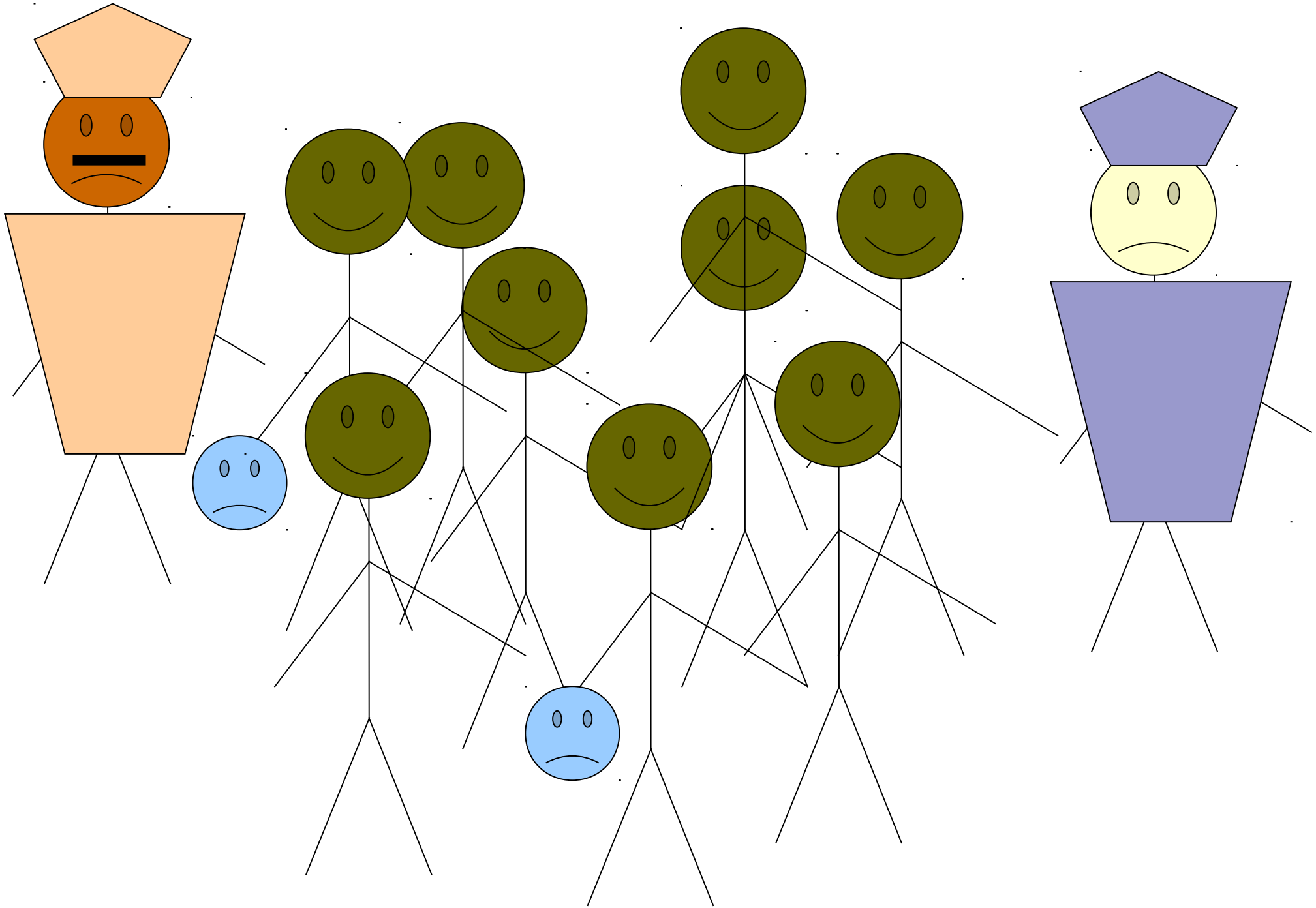




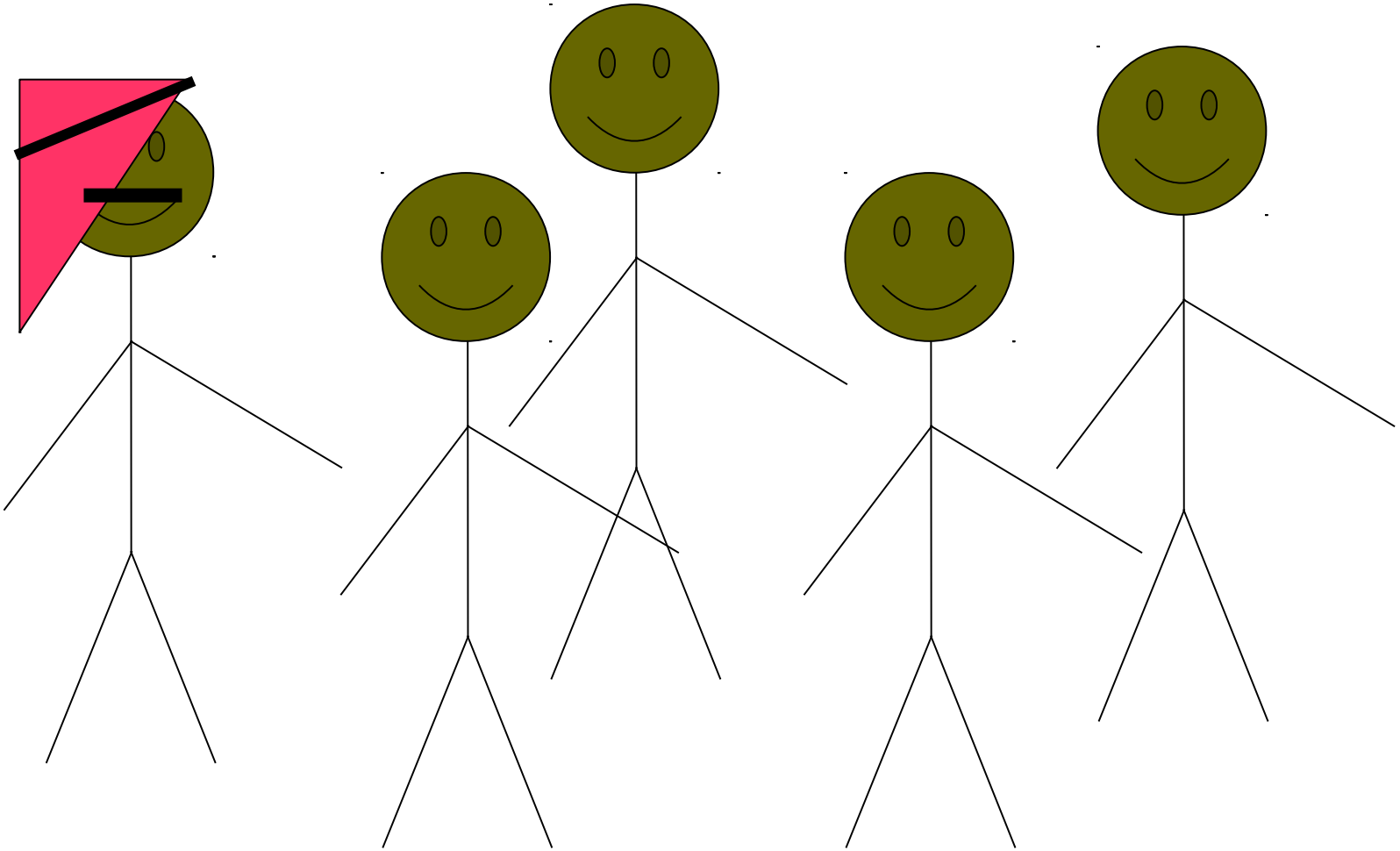
What's that in Joe's hand? Oh, a transitional authority law! It was written by the CPA (25 year olds from Texas, and Paul Bremer) and it says NO SHEIKS! ONLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT!!! “That's OK”, says the Sheik. “Can I have some contract work?”



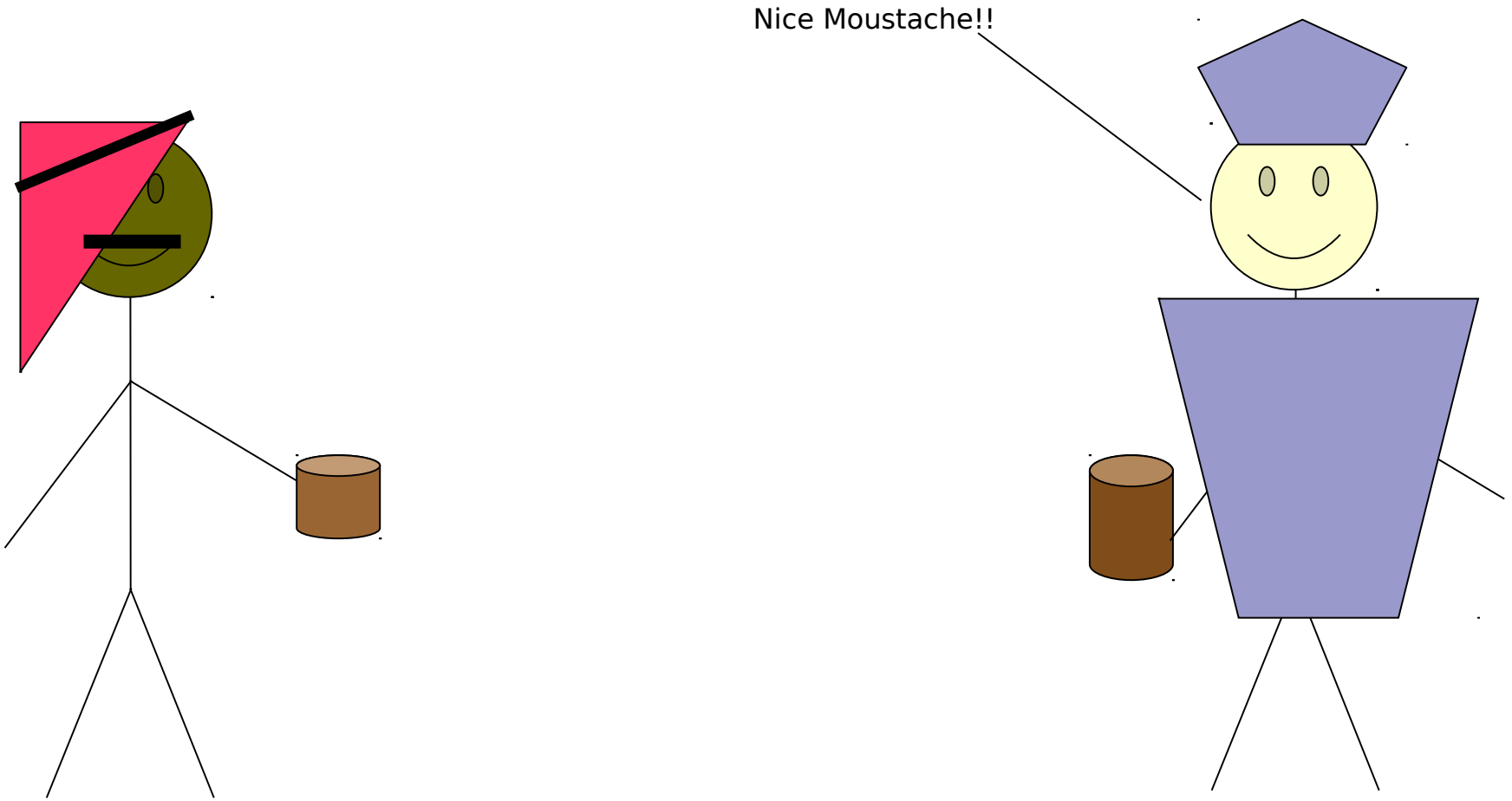
These guys, however, can win elections if they want. More importantly, they can make good Iraqis not vote! And control ministries and other government offices! Smart Insurgents! Humdillillah, they say, that the Americans can't tell us from the innocent Iraqis!



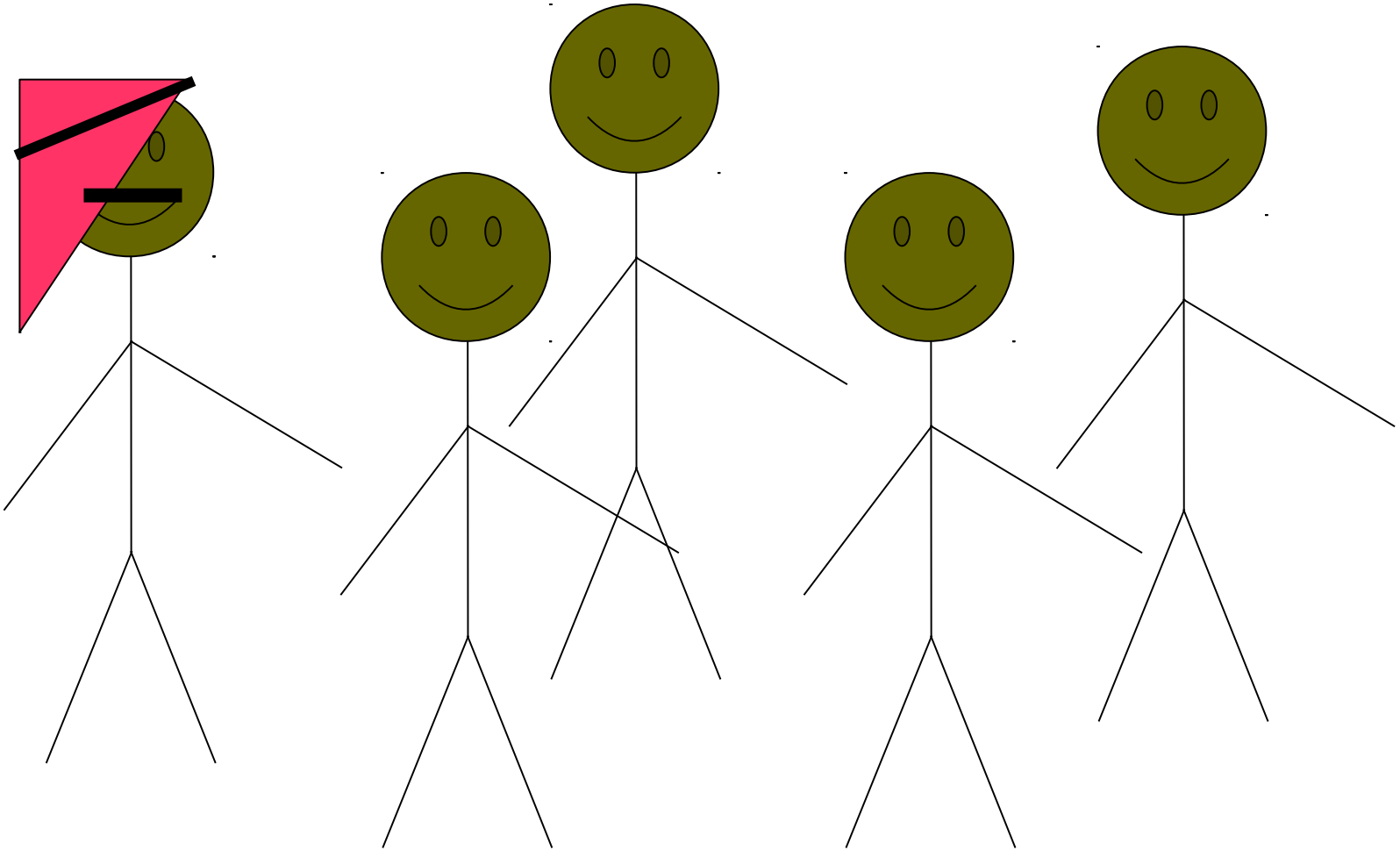
Poor Joe can't tell the terrorist from the good Iraqis. Neither can Mohammed.



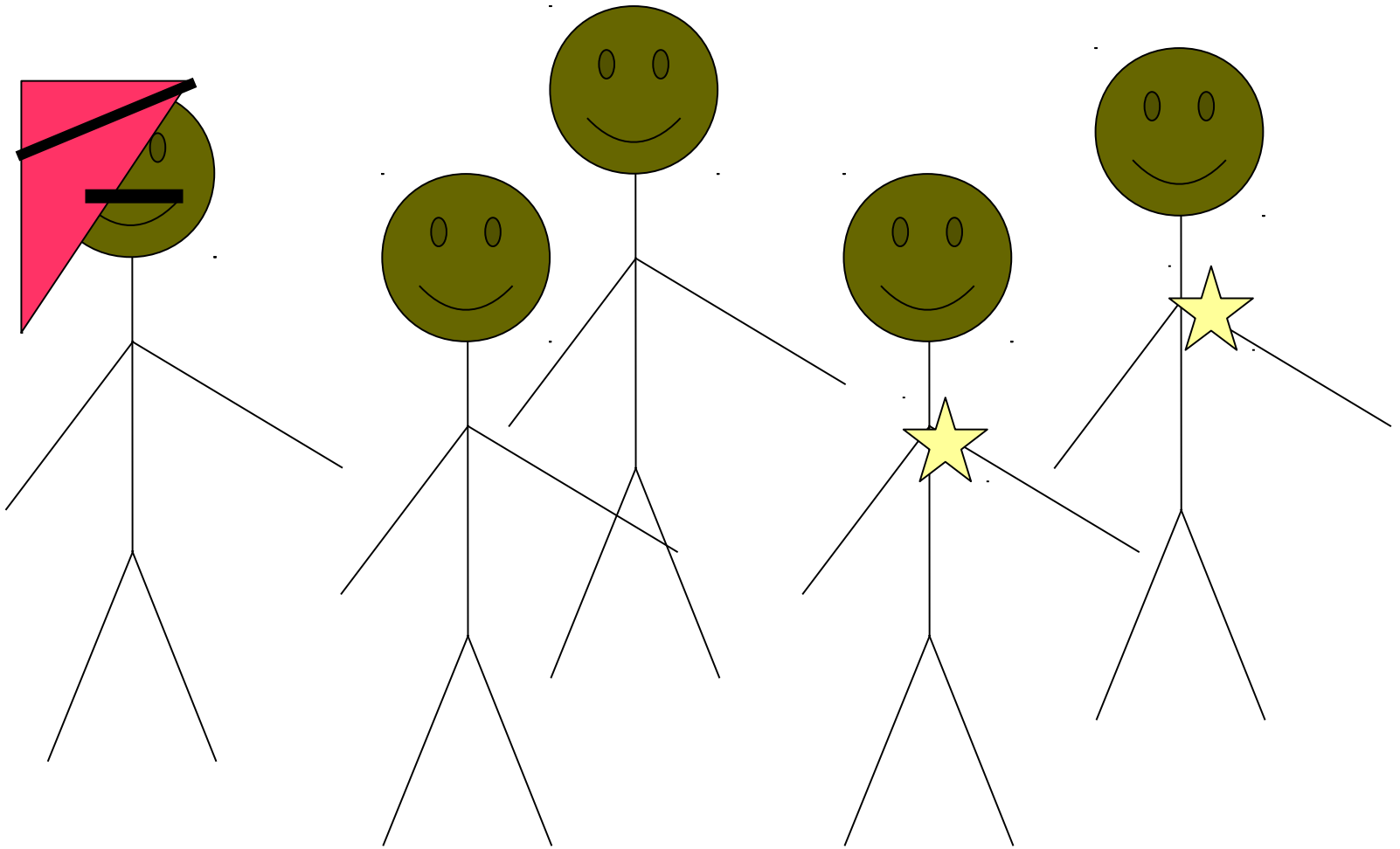
This is the Sheik with his militia. Militias are bad.. “But they just protect my family and tribe..” Says the Sheik. “Let’s have Chai..”



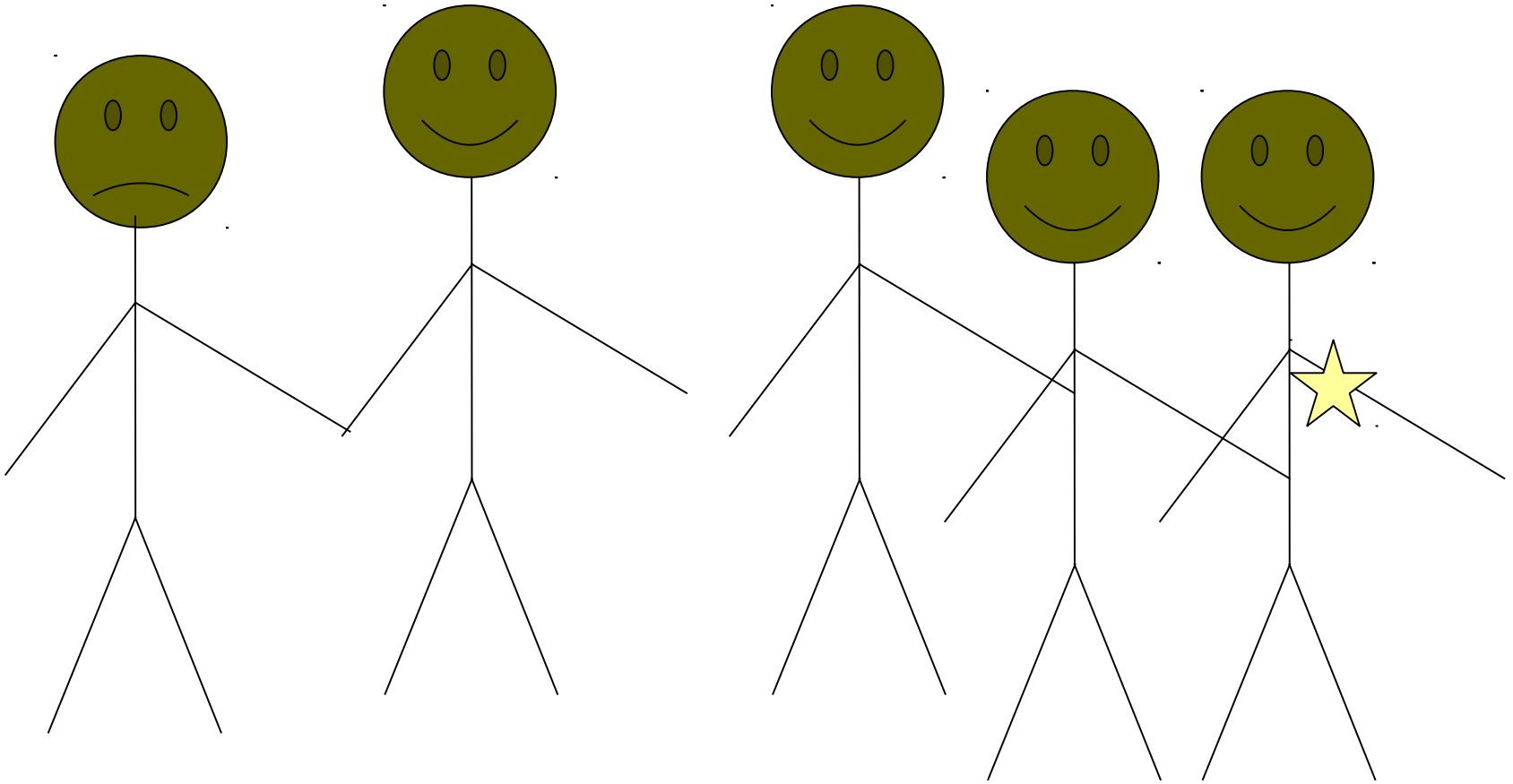
The Sheik and Joe drink Tea. Mmm good Chai.. Joe says Militias are bad, but Iraqi Police are good. Would the Sheik Let his men join the Iraqi Police? Yes, yes he will.



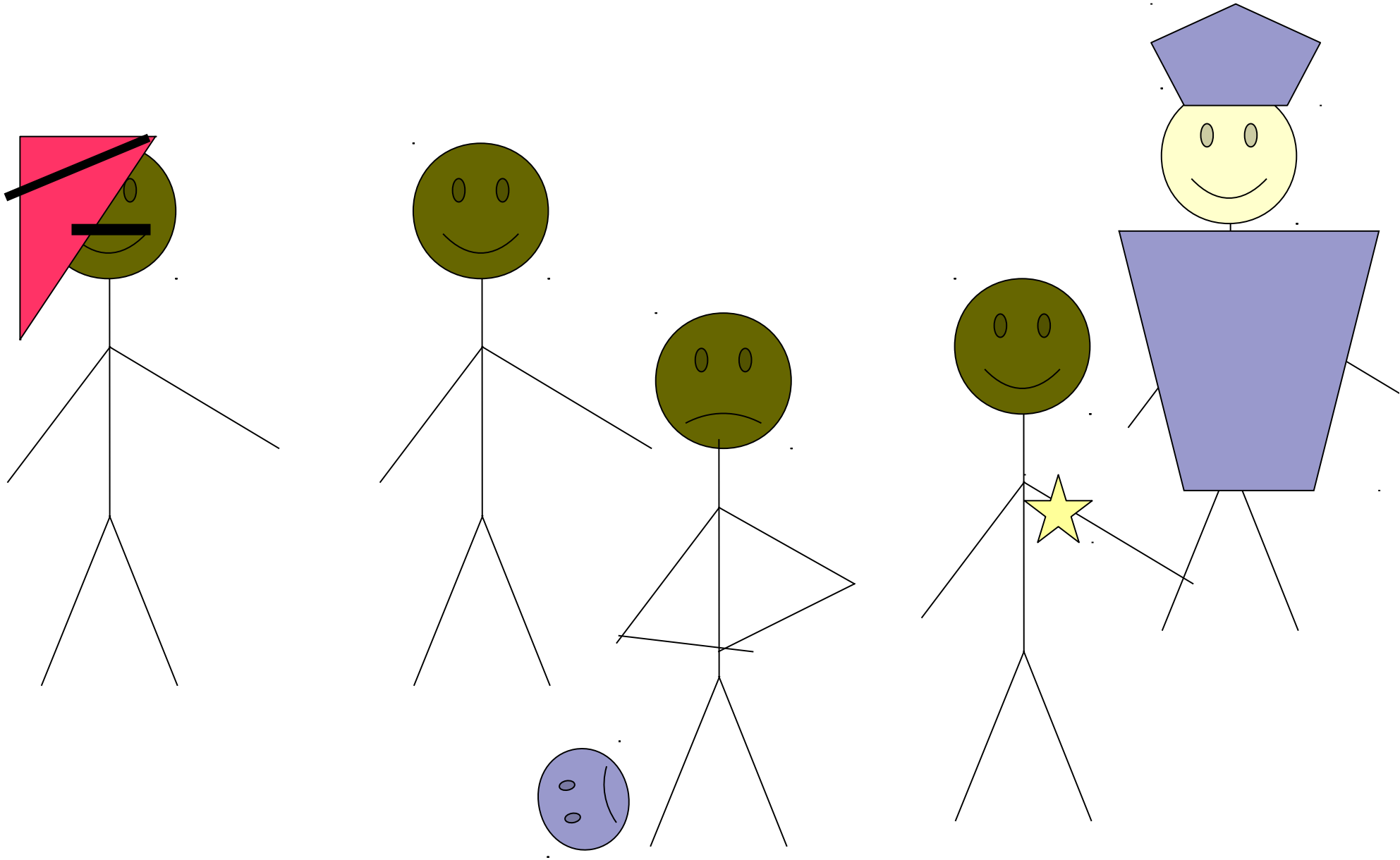
Remember the militia? Now half go to Police school while half protect their families.



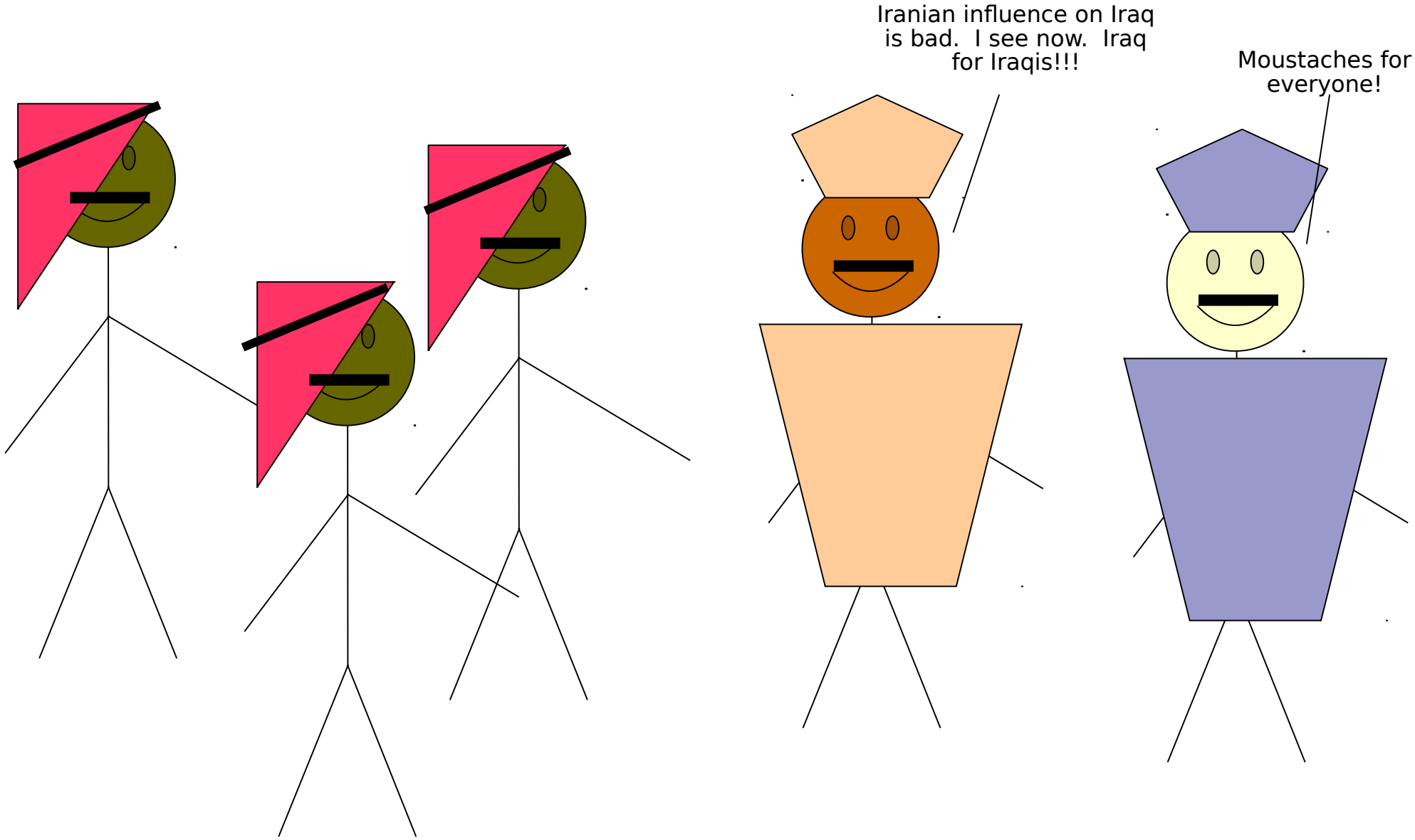
Then they come back, and they’re police! Then the other half goes to school.



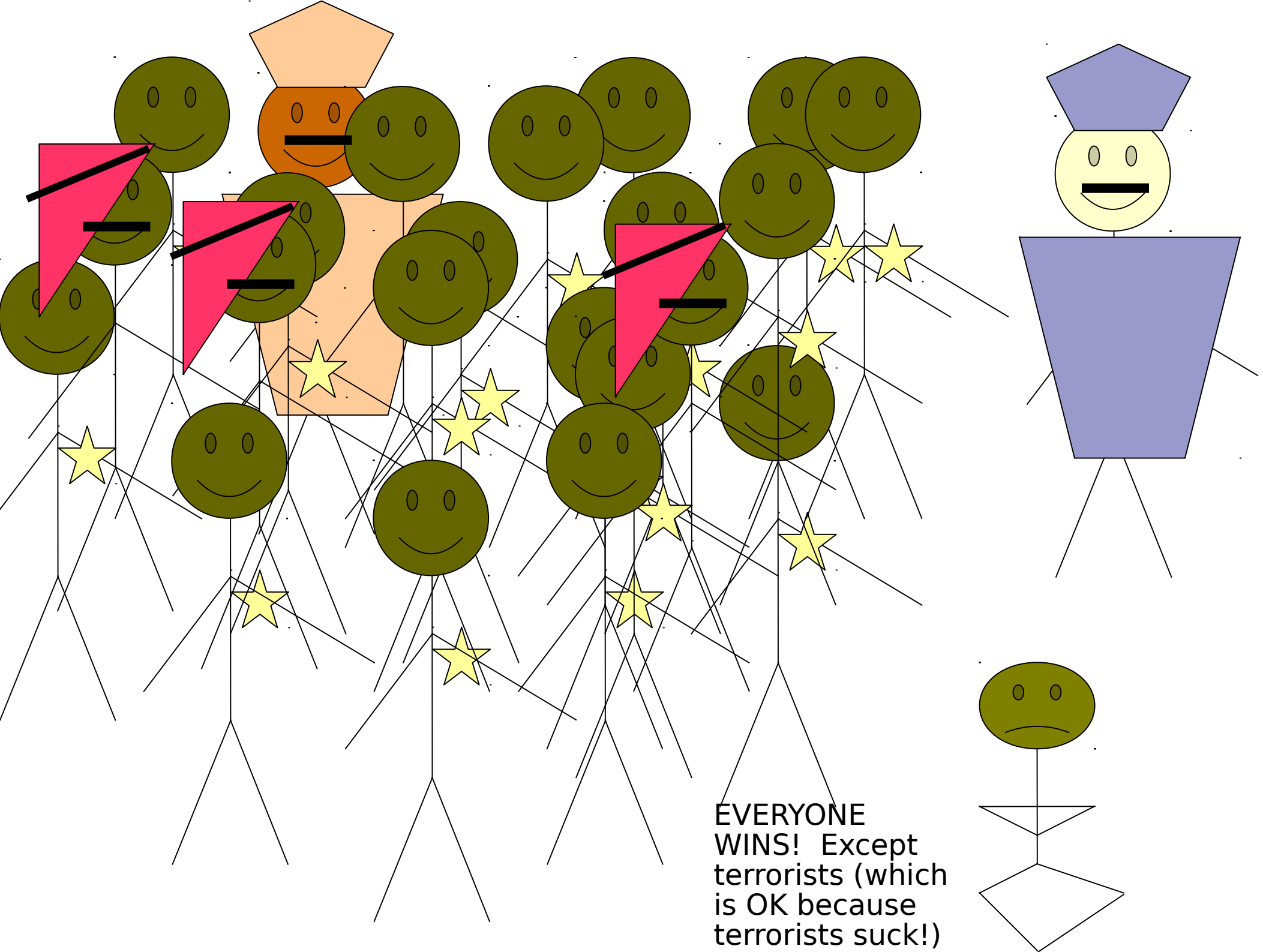
Now can you tell the difference between the insurgent, the normal Iraqi, and the Iraqi Police man? Kind of? Don't worry, because the Iraqi Policeman can tell the difference.



That terrorist is sad.. He just got caught. Joe is happy. The normal Iraqi is happy. The Iraqi Policeman is happy. The Sheik is happy.



The Sheik brings more Sheiks, more sheiks bring more men. Joe realizes that if he'd done this three years ago, maybe his wife would be happier, and he'd have been home more. Mohammed gets to meet the Sheiks. They realize he's not such a bad guy, which is good for Iraq.


EVERYONE WINS! Except terrorists (which is OK because terrorists suck!)